

FAITH AND VICTORY

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My Future

What shall I be tomorrow, with my future at my hand?

Shall I live in wealth and comfort, with Satan's voice as my command?

Shall I live in a sin-filled world, a wicked and dirty thief?

No morals will I have, no faith, no Christian belief?

What shall I be tomorrow when I find that my road hath but two paths?

Will I choose that which leads to destruction and later answer to a great God's bitter wrath?

Or will I take the right road—the one that will help me find my way—

A road that will give me strength and courage for the struggles I'll meet each day?

Will I be honest enough to search my soul and let Christ dwell in my life?

Then will I live that life to the fullest, helping others in bondage and strife?

Will I be a faithful servant, using my talents, my time and my all,

To help some lonely, dreary person heed to God's beckoning call?

I thank God that I've chosen to take the right road with my Master reigning within.

Every day I'm living a life of redemption, God's grace keeping me free from sin.

I know that with my Saviour's love my life will be full and complete,

For anyone that chooses to live for Jesus will have a future filled with blessings and victories sweet!

—Segatha Douglas

More Important

It was early afternoon and I was busy in the kitchen when I noticed that my husband was preparing to go outside. In answer to my inquiry as to what he was planning to do he replied, "Pick up pecans." I asked if he would have time to do a certain job that seemed quite needful to be done. He replied, "The pecans are more important." I immediately agreed, realizing what he meant. The birds were busy carrying the pecans off and he wanted to get as many as possible while he could.

More important! Can we feel the weight of these words? What do we consider as being the most important in daily life? Satan is busy "carrying off" every soul that he can and taking advantage of souls however he can. Are we considering it more important to do whatever the Lord is laying upon our hearts to do to help precious never-dying souls?

Jesus is our example and He considered His Father's will more important. "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." John 6:38. In the garden of Gethsemane when He felt the flesh drawing back from the suffering lying ahead, He "... fell on His face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." Matthew 26:39. It was of greater importance to Him to do His Father's will even though it meant suffering death on the cross. His death paid the full price for our salvation.

Simon Peter was busy washing fishing nets by the sea when Jesus entered into his ship and asked him to thrust out a little from the land. Peter obeyed and Jesus sat down and taught the people out of the ship. "Now when He had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: . . . When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord . . . And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men." Luke 5:4-6, 8-10. Peter forsook all and followed Jesus. It meant sacrifice, but the call of Jesus was of greater importance to Peter than fishing. By obeying the call he was prepared and used of God in filling a place of service to others. Even we today are helped by reading the epistles that Peter wrote.

One young man came to Jesus desiring eternal life. He said that he had kept the commandments from his youth. "Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me." Mark 10:21. It seems that his riches were of greater importance to him than eternal life for "he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions." (verse 22).

Some kind of an accident happened on the way and he needed God's help badly. Then he realized that he really was not prepared for such an emergency as that and felt reproved of the Lord.

Perhaps the Spirit reminds us of a letter that we ought to write or of a visit we need to make or even a simple telephone call. Which is of greater importance to us at a time like that, the Lord's work or our own? Which comes first, our way or the Lord's way? Jesus said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness." (Matthew 6:33). The letter, visit or telephone call might seem like such a little thing, but if it is the Lord making the suggestion to us, it is important. It may mean a lot to someone needing encouragement.

One sister was needing to make a dress for a special occasion, but felt heavily burdened that she needed to pray. She went to God in earnest prayer until the burden was lifted and she was assured of God's help for whatever the need might be. Later a situation arose that she needed much grace to handle, and God's grace was sufficient. She had made the sacrifice and was prepared for the special need. The Lord then wonderfully helped her with the needed dressmaking and she testified that she was enabled to make it very quickly.

"Which comes first, our way or the Lord's way?"

We read of a time in the book of Haggai when the children of Judah were not being blessed in a temporal way. Then the Lord revealed to Haggai why this condition was prevailing. They were dwelling in their cieled houses and the house of the Lord was not built. They were saying, "The time is not come, the time that the Lord's house should be built." The Lord said to them, ". . . Consider your ways. Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, . . . Ye looked for much, and lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the Lord of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house." Haggai 1:7-9. When they obeyed the word of the Lord and considered the rebuilding of the Lord's house of more importance than their own, then the Lord began to bless them again.

What are the most important things in life to us? When we realize that it is time for us to arise in order to have sufficient time to commune with our Lord before turning to the many duties of the day, is it more important to us to arise? One brother was in such a hurry one morning that he just knelt down on one knee to offer a hurried prayer before going to work.

Many years ago I read the following poem:

Somebody Failed

~~~~~  
 God told somebody to stop and pray  
 For a soul that was slipping away that day,  
 But that soul slipped out from God's love and care,  
 For that somebody failed to offer that prayer.  
 God told somebody to sing a song;  
 It would have kept a soul from shame and wrong,  
 But that soul went on its downward way,  
 For that somebody failed to sing that day.  
 God told somebody to go and try  
 To win men and women as they passed by;  
 But the men and women were never reached,  
 For that somebody failed to speak,  
 Left that sermon unpreached.  
 My friend, are you failing the Father, too?  
 Is His great heart grieving just now o'er you?  
 Or can He always count on you  
 To hasten His tasks of love to do?

Let us be careful to follow the example of our dear Redeemer who considered His Father's will of greater importance in His daily living than His own.  
 —Fern Stubblefield

## Going Away Testimony

"We are sending this testimony of Sis. Jennifer Kaye Pomerlee, a young sister in the congregation here, (Water Valley, MS) who delivered it to the young people before she left for Akron, OH to help Bro. Keith Fuller in the Christian School." —Bro. and Sis. Reed

I appreciate the goodness and mercy of God. We know that God will never fail us, leave us, nor forsake us. I am going to say just what the Lord has laid on my heart. About 5 or 6 years ago if someone had told me that I was going to be saved and taking training to help in the Christian school, I would never have believed it. But God moves in mysterious ways and I appreciate how the Lord has dealt with my heart.

My purpose in talking this morning to the young people is to tell you to follow God fully and He will always be there when you need Him. So you say that it's hard to live a saved life in the public school. I agree. I can sympathize with you because I was out there myself and I'll tell you it sure was hard for me. I don't think I have ever come up against anything so awful and so sinful in my eighteen years of life. All of the sin and corruption just vexed and irritated my spirit. I just hate it. Oh, how I hate it! We should hate sin and the very appearance of it. I would sometimes look up and see the bus and I knew it was taking me to another day of an earthly hell with sin on every side. I would begin to cry and ask the Lord to help me make it through another day. I wanted no part of such a place and I totally detested it. I even got to the place where I told my mother that I would rather quit school than continue to go. An education is not important if I had to lose my soul to get it. I wouldn't have made it had it not been for God, the prayers of the saints, and my desire to live for Him. After I finished that year, the Lord delivered me. He made a way for me to escape.

The Scripture says, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." I Corinthians 10:13.

I want to tell you other young people there is nothing out in this cruel, wicked, twisted sinful world but grief and sorrow, and its path leads to the pits of hell. Don't let the devil bewitch you and try to make you think that sin is good—because it's not. The devil will tell you that "It's fun out there and you're young." Let me tell you it may seem like fun but it's not. The

true joy is in living in Christ Jesus, and it is far more profitable. You are young now, but if the Lord permits, someday you will be old. The older you get the farther you get away from God. When the Lord is dealing with your heart to be saved it is best to come right then. Who says that you can be saved at your own convenience? The Scripture says that Esau sought the Lord with tears and He would not be found. Don't play with God. This is nothing to play with. It is serious business and your eternal destiny. Your life determines whether you will go to heaven or hell.

If you are in sin you are worshipping the devil. Those of you who are not saved, I would like to ask you a question. How does it feel to worship a man who destroys you, who gets you in trouble and rejoices after it is done? I would certainly hate to worship or have a friend such as that, but I did have such a friend in my life. I will be praying for you that God will open your eyes so that you can see how the devil uses you and deceives you.

It has taken great sacrifice on my mother's behalf for me to stand here today saved and sanctified. My father has also helped out in many ways, and I appreciate all that they have done to help me. I can never be thankful enough. It is a blessing to have saved parents. Those of you who do, have a real advantage and a rare opportunity.

Young people, for those of you who are saved, I am praying that God will keep you that way. For those of you who are not saved, I am praying that the Lord will deal with your hearts and save you to the fullest.

It encourages me to know that the saints here are backing and encouraging me 100%. I appreciate it. Saints and young people, I'm going to miss you all, but God knows what is best. I certainly want to follow all the way through with what He has planned for me. I don't see all that He has planned for me, but I am trying to take it one step at a time.

In closing I would like to sing this song, "God Never Fails." Pray for me saints. I want to be as faithful to God as He is to me. I would rather die than go back on God.

May God bless and keep us all,

—Sis. Jennifer Pomerlee

If you long to be more useful and happy, improve every opportunity to grow in grace; exercise your every talent; expand yourself in every Christian duty with a hearty good will. Neglect of Christian duty and of spiritual exercise is disastrous and very discouraging. Let us be found faithful.

—H. Dale Freeman

## FAITH AND VICTORY

### 16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend camp meetings), by Maybelle Pruitt, Wayne Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044 (USPS184-660).

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This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21, and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ—the same gospel that Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including divine healing for the body. James 5:14, 15.

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: separation from the sinful world and entire devotion to the service and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God, and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Cooperation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way as the Bible and the Holy Spirit teach you to do or stir your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Exodus 25:2; 1 Chron. 29:9; 2 Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

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A separate Missionary Fund is maintained in order to relay missionary funds from our readers to the support of home and foreign missionaries and evangelists.

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## EDITORIALS

"So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us." I Thessalonians 2:8. In this verse the Apostle Paul was reminiscing about his past experiences with the Thessalonian Church. Not only does this verse give us an insight into his love for others, but the whole chapter shows his dedication to the gospel. Paul recalls the conviction with which he preached to them. The emphatic Diaglott interprets verse 2 as, "... We were emboldened by our God to speak to you the glad tidings of God, with much earnestness." This earnestness was free of any selfish motive, deceit, uncleanness or guile. In his preaching and in his life before them Paul did not use flattery nor any other means to bring glory to himself, yet we find him affectionate and gentle as a nurse among them.

A commentary on Paul's actions could be extensive, but the Apostle Paul pretty well summed it up when he stated that he had behaved in a holy, just and unblameable manner. This characterizes a life free of self and filled with God. Self causes a person to personally benefit in all that is done, whether on the job, at home or in God's work.

The opposite of the Apostle Paul's example would be a leader who flatters some in order to bring praise to himself, which is guilish, deceitful and abuse of position when done in the pretext of administering the gospel. This same individual may also lack carefulness and gentleness in dealing with others if that is what will profit self.

As we reminisce on our lives, if we do not like the profile that is pictured, we can change it by asking God's help and by applying His Word to our daily walk.

When you view a group photograph, who do you search for first? If this is answered honestly, most everyone would have to acknowledge that they generally look for themselves first. This is only natural, but when it comes to serving God, our focus should be different. Instead of following the natural inclinations to gratify one's self in this life, let us do as Jesus commanded: "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." (John 4:35). This commandment, given to the disciples, was sandwiched in between times of Christ doing His Father's work. Christ had witnessed to a Samaritan woman and she had been moved to the point that she hurried off to tell others about Him. There were many Samaritans who believed and came back to Jesus. Now here we have the disciples offering

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meat to Him. There is surely nothing wrong in eating, but we see the earnestness Jesus felt for souls. He told the disciples to raise their vision beyond themselves and see a work to be done.

May this be an era in God's Church when all self, and its accompanying symptoms, be laid aside and the harvest of the Lord be looked upon with prayerfulness and earnest endeavor.

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Many of our readers desire to know the dates of the Church of God camp meetings scheduled for 1989. In the past we have printed as complete a list as possible in the March issue. To make that issue this year, we kindly request that your information be in this office by February 17.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Aunt Maybelle received word on January 20th that her brother, Clyde, had passed away that morning. Remember Clyde's wife, Connie, and the other members of the family in your prayers.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

I would like to clarify that the letter printed in last month's *Faith and Victory* in the form of an article, entitled "A Cheering Letter," was not a letter written to us. The letter was sent to us already in its existing article form.

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We would like to encourage those who write to be sure to sign your name. We realize that there are situations when a name is best omitted from some things that are printed, but if we do not know the source of what is written, it lacks credence.

—Wayne Murphey

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## Partial List of Items Available

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## Prayer Requests

IL—"Please pray for me and my daughter, for soul and body."—Sis. Margaret Whitecotton  
NC—"Pray for us and our family."

—Lawrence Burleson

OH—"Please pray for the healing of my eye."

—Essie Abbott

CA—"I have some very special unspoken requests and would like all saints to pray for me."

—Doris Pihaylic

CA—"Pray with us for Sis. Reece and Sis. Loretta Harmon."

—Lois Underwood

LA—"Please help us pray for Bro. and Sis. Brown; both are very frail. Also remember Ben and I."

—Sis. Ben Goldsberry

MO—"Pray for me. I am not in good health."

—Sis. Mattie Baney

CA—Sis. Hazel Davis desires complete healing of her body.

AR—"Please pray for me."—Kirtie Pulliam

AL—"Please pray for my son to be saved."

—Jeanette Mooney

LA—"Please pray for Bro. Robert Snowden."

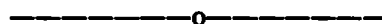
—N. P. Futch

MS—Do pray for Sis. Ethel Lowery. She is in need of healing. She suffers so much and severely. Please keep her on your prayer list.

OH—Sis. Alberta Bruner needs complete healing.

IN—"Please remember me. I have arthritis so bad I can hardly walk. It is in the back of my neck and arms and pains so. Also remember my unsaved loved ones." —Sis. Mary J. Rogers

OR—Frank Knouse needs prayer for what has been determined as stomach cancer. He is looking to the Lord to take care of it.



## CHURCH BUILDING RELOCATION REPORT

By the help of the Lord, ground breaking will soon be underway for the construction of a chapel and dining hall at the new location of the Church of God Campground in Guthrie, OK. After many months of dedicated effort by the trustees and by the prayerful support of the saints, plans are being finalized and construction will hopefully get underway within the next month.

Efforts to relocate the campground were stepped up in recent years due to the increased threat of flooding each year from the overflow of the Cottonwood Creek. There have been about thirty floods recorded in the last eighty years and some have been very damaging to the campground. In 1983 the water rose to four feet in the dining hall. In 1985 it flooded twice in one week and in a former year it flooded three times in a

ten day period. Due to the increased development in recent years of housing and commercial properties in the watershed area that feed the Cottonwood Creek, there has been much more runoff water during a sustained period of rainfall. This has caused a yearly increase in flooding and flood threats. The City of Guthrie and the State of Oklahoma's approach to dealing with the flooding problem has been to buy up the residential properties in the floodway with federal block grants and to relocate all the owner occupants to a new location. With additional grant money the area is being developed into a city park. The present location of the chapel is in the middle of this park area. It is very possible that at some future date the Church will be called on to vacate this location. This has been a further incentive for the Church to get a relocation plan underway.

Relocation may seem like too big of a project and too costly an undertaking to some, but the work of the Lord must go on. For the continued propagation of the gospel and to keep faith with those who through the years dedicated their lives to the work of the Lord here, we must take this task in hand and go forward with it. Let us not shortchange the work of the Lord by saying that the task is too great. What God allows or orders He is able to provide for through the unselfish sacrifice of His people. We appreciate the show of support many have already made and encourage God's people to commit themselves to this need as the Lord directs. Those desiring to send assistance for this need may do so by addressing it to: Church of God, %Brenda Wilkins, Treasurer, Rt. 6, Box 797, Guthrie, OK 73044.

Please pray with us also about the disposition of the property at our present location. We need wisdom in negotiating with the city for a fair and equitable price for this property.

Your prayerful support will be greatly appreciated,

—Bro. Bob Sallee, for the Church of God in OK

#### TAPES WANTED

If anyone has any message tapes of Bro. Egbert Allen's, I would appreciate getting them. I would be glad to pay for them. Please notify me first if you have some, and quote the price. My address is: Sis. Egbert Allen, Rt. 2, Box 382, Norwood, MO 65717.

Thank you,

—Sis. Pearl Allen

If there are thirty-two thousand promises for the children of God in His Word, why should we ever be discouraged.

—Selected

## MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

### EIGHTY-FIRST OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING REPORT

We want to thank the Lord for blessing us with another wonderful assembly meeting here at Guthrie, OK. The theme of the meeting was consecration and working for God. We had a lot of altar work with souls consecrating to do more for God; some getting saved and some seeking sanctification. The Word of God was preached under the anointing of the Spirit with the congregation being stirred and blessed in their souls.

We appreciate all the saints, gospel workers, and ministers that came to help us in the meeting. May God richly bless you.

—Carl R. Shaffer

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### WATER VALLEY, MS MEETING REPORT

The saints at Water Valley, MS, continue to give thanks to God for five glorious nights of meeting at the chapel. The meeting ended on the night of December 25th. On that same date Bro. Louis Kimble baptized six candidates.

The message was brought each night by Bro. James Bruner, and supported by Bro. Kimble. Brother Bruner had come down from Akron with Sister Bruner and Sister Shaw. Brother Kimble came up from Louisiana with Dianne Fuller. Dianne was saved in the meeting and was one of the candidates baptised in the chilly waters of a country pond. Praise the Lord! We are still rejoicing! What a mighty God we serve!

—Burbridge Copeland

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### REVIVAL AT BAKERSFIELD, CA

The saints at Bakersfield, CA, extend a warm welcome to all to attend the annual revival to be held, Lord willing, from Friday night, Feb. 10 through Sunday night, Feb. 19, 1989. In addition to nightly services, plans are for a daytime service at 1:00 p.m. on week days, with three services on the last Friday and on each Saturday and Sunday.

Please pray for the success of the meeting and that the Lord will send those of His choosing to help in the meeting. The chapel address is 1802 Virginia Ave., phone (805) 395-9314.

For further information, contact Bro. Robert Mays, 421 S. Brown St., phone (805) 325-2730, or Bro. Archie Sherman, Jr. 3400 Rayborn Way, phone (805) 871-1636.

—Janice Herring

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## From the Mailbox . . .

MO—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: I greet you in the lovely name of Jesus, the one who saved my soul and put me on the straight and narrow road which leads to heaven. Won't it be wonderful when we see Jesus.

I want this year of 1989 to be my best. My heart's desire is to be filled with more knowledge of God's will, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. Amen.

Please remember me and my loved ones when you pray.

With Christian love, —Sister Eathel Hill

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AL—Beloved in the Lord: Once again I write to share with you that your materials have become a dear and blessed tool in our small ministry. We thank the Lord for His faithfulness in leading us to fellow saints in the faith. As the days continue to grow ever darker, we must allow our light to shine more abundantly. The need is (as I am sure you know) tremendous. Please remember us in your prayers as we shall likewise do for you. May the Lord bless and keep thee, and may His grace continue to abound in your hearts and lives.

His servant,

—Jim Baxter

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KS—Dear Sis. Maybelle and saints: I thank the Lord for being able to see the beginning of a new year. We have no guarantee that we will see the whole year through, but we know we can trust God to keep us each day we live. We are so thankful that we know God and we are not living by mere luck. It is so good to be living by faith. I am so glad God is real, and thankful we can have a personal relationship with Him. I feel so sorry for people who worship gods made by hands which are figments of their imagination. Praise God for reality and the real bliss of salvation which satisfies the soul. Praise God for His goodness.

1988 was a good year for us and the Lord blessed in many ways. We are looking forward to continuing to bask in the sunlight of God's love. We don't know what the future holds, but we truly know who holds the future.

Christian love, —Sis. Shirley Knight

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## Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

CA—Dear saints and workers at the Print Shop: I would like to send in our testimony of the mercies and goodness of the Lord to us in the behalf of one of our sons. On the last night

of our Assembly Meeting here in Pacoima, CA, we left the campground, drove home and started getting the children in bed when we received a call notifying us that we had left one of the boys at church. He had been found unconscious on the ground outside the church building and was still unable to talk or respond. I immediately returned to the campground and upon entering the chapel found the saints praying, gathered around our son who had been laid on the altar. At this point about 20 minutes had elapsed since he had been found. He was still totally unresponsive. Upon opening his eyelids, I found his pupils dilated and noticed his color being somewhat pale. He was breathing, but the situation didn't look good. The enemy began his attempts to cause anxiety and doubts in our mind. We had another agreement in prayer and as soon as prayer was finished, he began to lift one of his arms. What a mighty God we serve! I asked him if he could kick his legs. He said, "No." When I told him to get up and let's go home, he started to get up and I was able to lead him outside to the van. He was able to walk stiff-legged and zombie-like, but our hearts rejoiced greatly. He was unable to bend his legs and get in the van so I had to help him. The saints had another agreement of prayer and I left for home. I questioned him on the way about what happened, how he was feeling, etc., and found that he was having trouble being coherent and answering questions. He did say that his head was hurting, he was still a little dizzy and had some pain in the lower body in the area of his hips. I continued to pray.

I did find out from him that after church was out he went to the rest room. When he came out, he looked around a bit, saw that we were gone, and sat down on a bench outside to wait, knowing that we would return for him. He then became dizzy, his head started hurting and he fell off the bench head first. That's all he remembered until he came to with the saints praying around him.

My wife and I got him to bed about 2:00 a.m. He was able to get into his bunk bed without my help, though he was still having trouble with his legs. We got him up about 9:00 a.m. the next morning and by 9:30 a.m. all effects of the problem were gone. The manner in which God worked was miraculous.

Two things were comforting to us throughout this trial: 1) This child had been conscientious about his soul and was ready to meet the Lord, and; 2) there was nothing between our soul and the Saviour. How we did appreciate the saints prayers, care and concern.

I felt we should testify to the Lord's goodness to us for the encouragement of the saints.



God still heals, does miracles, is kind and compassionate.

—Adriel and Cecelia Bowman

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OK—Dear ones: For the past couple of weeks I have felt the need of writing my testimony. I thank the Lord for His wonderful mercies to me; for saving me and for sanctifying me. In March it will be two years since I was saved and although I have made many mistakes and at times it would seem the devil would nearly have me giving up, I am happy to say I am victorious! I know that many prayers have been prayed in my behalf and I am so thankful for those prayers. I believe they are what has sustained me.

God has really been blessing me lately. My daughter-in-law, Ruth, gave me a book to read about a year ago, but for some reason I put it up and forgot about it. I happened to run across it on New Year's Day, so I started to read it and found I could not put it down. This little book, *Steps Heavenward*, was just what I needed. How I wish I had read it when it was first given to me. I would have been saved much agony. Young people, or any one who has not been saved for long, I would really recommend you reading this book.

I would also like to express my appreciation to my parents, Bro. and Sis. Max Williamson and to my mother-in-law, Sis. Maybelle Pruitt, (and although he is gone, dad Lawrence) for the examples they have been over the years—steadfast and true. An indelible Christian life—what a legacy to leave one's children!

Very humbly, —Maxine Pruitt

**Note:** The book, *Steps Heavenward* can be obtained from Faith Publishing House. It has 123 pages in a heavy paper cover and sells for \$1.50. Include 90¢ for postage. —Editor

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WI—Dear saints: I feel I am long overdue for sharing the blessings of the Lord. I certainly never want to fail to give God the glory for all He has done for me.

In November I had an affliction on my ankle. One day I noticed a small hole in my ankle, but didn't know for sure how it got there. This hole became infected and I called the saints for prayer. My ankle swelled and looked quite bad, but the Lord was faithful to completely heal it. It was about a six week stretch, but God never failed me once.

After this was healed, I had another affliction on my thumb. The Lord was faithful again and never late. . . . Today as I write, I can truly

say that God never fails. I am so thankful that we can go to the Lord any time, day or night, and He's always there.

I desire your prayers that I will remain faithful until the end.

Christian love, —Sis. Janie Woodruff

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KY—Dear workers at the Print Shop: I'm truly thankful that we still have a mighty God on the throne, one that hears and answers prayer.

I got sick with a very fast heart which skipped beats. My husband rushed me to the hospital by ambulance where I was placed in intensive care so I could be monitored.

I was in the hospital for three days and four nights and then came home with the same problem. I put my trust in the Lord and prayed and prayed. My husband had his Sunday school book lying on the table beside my chair. I looked down and the title of the Sunday lesson was, "Healed and Forgiven." I just felt like that was a message for me. I have been a Christian for many years and I knew I was forgiven, and now God was going to heal me.

It wasn't long after that I began to feel better. I know God touched me and I'm waiting for His complete healing.

I know if it is God's will, that I will be completely healed. If not, then I just pray for grace so as to stand my illness. Praise the Lord, whatever the Lord wants is alright with me.

I am really proud that you all are still publishing a good paper. So many papers today are full of untruths and filth. Keep up the good work and I am sure God will continue to bless you.

Pray for me and my family.

A sister in Christ, —Wilma Horsley

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## FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From India . . .

Dec. 16—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey, Sis. Maybelle Pruitt and the dear ones abroad: Greetings to you all again in the glorious and marvellous name of Jesus Christ.

By the grace of God we are all fine and the ministry is in progress day by day. We are now almost ready for our 24th General Convention which starts January 18th. We are happy to give a warm and happy welcome to Bro. Jerry Gossard to India for our convention. Sorry to know that he plans to stay only for two weeks, but we expect many blessings from heaven through Bro. Gossard in our convention. We expect a good crowd this year in our meetings.

Last week I was at Trichur and Athani to conduct meetings. The Sunday school anniversary meeting at Athani was very blessed and attractive to the children and young people. We had ordinance service at Athani last Sunday evening.

Lord willing I plan to visit the northern region again towards the end of this month to attend a convention at Challissery.

Your prayers and support are essential for the furtherance of the ministry here.

Yours in Him, —John Varghese

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From the Philippines . . .

Jan. 17—Dear ones in the Print Shop: Greetings to you all in Jesus' name. I hope you are all happy and healthy when you receive my letter. I am now here in the busy and noisy city of Manila. I arrived here on January 11 to start a congregation. After praying fervently to our heavenly Father, asking Him to guide me about my plan to advance the gospel in other places, I was led to come here in the most populated area of the country. Although the kind of living is so different from the province, it is very encouraging and promising for the gospel. Temporarily I am staying in my sister's room.

Our first worship service was held here. We asked my sister's neighbor if we could have a worship service in their house and she accepted for this one time. We had an attendance of 9 persons. That was Sunday morning January 15, and in the afternoon I went to Marikima, a district in metro Manila, where some prospects were waiting and we held our worship service with an attendance of 11 persons. Our Sunday school was very interesting. They had many questions and they were all answered from the Bible.

I entrusted the congregations in Nueva Ecija to the elders and deacons and they said they will do their best with the help of the Lord to take care of their respective congregations and to continue their evangelism program. I promised to visit them once in a while. My family will be with them in Nueva Ecija.

Please continue to be patient to us. We need your prayers and financial support. We are praying for you.

Love and prayers,

—Matias S. Tangunan

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Dec. 20—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and Sis. Maybelle Pruitt: Greetings to you all in the holy and glorious name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who is so loving and merciful to mankind.

I am thanking our Lord for His grace and the blessing of good health. He cares for me and my family, so I glorify our Lord often.

I find joy in preaching the Word of God wherever I go. It is a great challenge for me to win the hearts of ungodly people . . .

With Christian love,

—Nonilon Capuyan

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## *In Memoriam*

**Robert (Bob) Johnson** was born July 8, 1913 to Robert and Sarah Johnson in Dennison, TX and died on October 23, 1988 in the Guthrie Nursing Center.

He was a retired mechanic, farmer, and carpenter. He was married to Ruby Fern Wilson on May 10, 1941 in Springfield, MO. They moved to Guthrie, Oklahoma in January of 1959. Bob accepted Christ as his Saviour shortly before his passing and became a member of the Church of God.

He is survived by his wife, Ruby Fern, of Guthrie; one son and daughter-in-law, Jerry and Sigrid Johnson of Fort Leavenworth, KS; one daughter and son-in-law, Jonetta and Doug Taylor of Brentwood, CA; three sisters, Margaret Eck of Bluejacket, OK, Etta Brant and Hattie Dean of Guthrie, OK; one brother, Dee Johnson of Neosho, MO and six grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one sister, Minnie Lea and his son, Bobby.

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**Kim C. Randells** was born in Camilla, GA on March 23, 1982. She departed this life on November 3, 1988 at the age of 6 years, 7 months and 11 days.

Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." Mark 10:14.

Little Kim was in the Kingdom of God, but she got a call to come and be with Jesus in a better place than this world. She was just a little rosebud that was chosen by God to make up His beautiful bouquet in heaven. She is in the presence of the Master and her joy knows no bounds.

Left with precious memories are her mother, Marie Randells of Homestead, FL; two brothers, Tim and John Arthur of Camilla, GA; two sisters, Brenda Cason of Jacksonville, FL and Jeanette Cason of Camilla, GA; also Bro. and Sis. Robert McIntyre Sr. and family who raised Kim.

Funeral services were held Saturday, November 12, 1988 at 1:00 p.m. in Walker's Funeral Home Chapel, Goulds, FL, with Bro. Herschell Hargrave and Bro. Norman Simpson officiating. Interment followed at Woodlawn Memorial Park.

#### NOTE OF THANKS

The family of the late Sis. Kim Randells takes this opportunity to say thank you to the saints and friends for your prayers, concern, encouraging words and presence with us during the loss of our daughter.

Our concern now is to live ready to go whenever the Master calls. Pray much for our family.

—Bro. and Sis. Robert McIntyre, Sr.

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**Jefferson Pierro** was born March 1, 1912 in Luther, OK to James and Josephine Pierro, and passed away December 12, 1988 at Pacoima, CA, (Sunset Guest Home) at the age of 76 years, 9 months, and 11 days.

Funeral services were conducted at the saints chapel in Bakersfield, CA by Bros. Robert C. Mays, Eddie Johnson, Archie Sherman and others. He was laid to rest in the Fresno Memorial Gardens, Fresno, CA. Bro. Phillip Matthews officiated at the graveside.

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**Lenard Franklin Marler**, son of the late Monroe and Catherine (Sister Katie Marler, Gibson) was born on December 31, 1927 at Greenville, MO, and departed this life December 14, 1988, at the age of 60 years, 11 months and 13 days.

He was united in marriage to Mary Snow, at Paragould, AR, December 29, 1947. To this union five children were born. One little daughter preceded him in death.

Bro. Lenard became a member of the Church of God by the new birth and remained faithful to God until his death. He was introduced to a long battle with cancer. God never allowed him to suffer, which was a great miracle. He was so kind, patient and free from murmur or complaint. We rejoice that he is in the paradise of God.

He is survived by his wife, Sister Mary Marler; two sons, Dennis and Randy Marler; two daughters, Barbara Ann Goff and Bonnie Elaine Issacs; two brothers, Louie Marler and Willard Marler; three sisters, Ruth Rachels, Cassie Sell and Virgie Flynn; five grandchildren, other relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were held at McDaniel Funeral Home, Kennett, MO. Interment was in the Cude Cemetery. Services were conducted by Bro. Charles R. Smith.

**Sarah Jobeth Forbes**, tiny daughter of Bro. Bobby and Sis. Janet Forbes of Amite, LA, was born December 17 and went home December 19. She is survived by her parents and her brother Alan, of the home, by her paternal grandparents Bro. and Sis. Bob Forbes, maternal grandparents Bro. and Sis. Joe Sorrell and by her maternal great-grandmother Sis. Effie Miller. Her parents found her to be a sweet and quiet child, and mourn her loss. Interment was at the Oak Grove cemetery, adjacent to the Church of God chapel. Bro. Ed Wilson officiated.

Sweet darling Jobeth, daughter dear,  
We planned and longed you to our home,  
With hearts love wrapt, we willed you near,  
To share your sweetness; give you our own.

But angels came and bore you 'way  
To yonder airy mansions fair,  
We'll miss and think of you each day,  
And pledge again to meet you there.

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**Jessie Riley**, the son of Ida and Cleveland Riley was born April 7, 1912 in Butler, GA, and passed away December 25, 1988 in Bakersfield, CA at the age of 76 years, 8 months, and 18 days.

Bro. Riley as a child, with his family, left Georgia and moved to Oklahoma, settling in and around Tulsa. He attended the local schools and churches. There he grew to manhood, and met and married Miss Nancy Gaines in 1936.

In 1942 he and his wife moved to Oakland, CA. Six years later they moved to Bakersfield where he made his home until the Lord called him home.

Bro. Riley was a very industrious person. He was a farm labor contractor for 28 years. He also owned Riley's Auto Repair Shop for many years.

During a revival in February 1982, Bro. Riley publicly accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour. Spiritual growth was evidenced by his "new life" and his testimony of God's goodness to him.

He leaves to cherish many fond memories his devoted wife, Sis. Nancy Riley of the home; one brother, W. C. Riley, Detroit, MI; three sisters, Ruth Brown, Sapulpa, OK, Earnestine Holleway and Kathleen Dudley of Detroit, MI; one aunt, Florence McHelen, GA; one uncle, Clent Riley, FL; several neices and nephews whom he loved dearly, other relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were conducted in the saints chapel in Bakersfield by Bros. Robert C. Mays, Eddie Johnson and Archie Sherman. He was laid to rest in Hillcrest Memorial Park in Bakersfield.

**Mabel Carter**, the daughter of Sherman and Anna Lewis, was born September 6, 1916 in Beggs, OK, and passed away Monday, January 2, 1989 in Pacoima, CA at the age of 72 years, three months and seventeen days.

Sis. Carter lived in and around the vicinity of Beggs/Okmulgee, OK for many years where she attended the local schools and churches. It was in Beggs where she met and united in marriage to Mr. Paul E. Carter. They celebrated their 54th Anniversary last year. To this union four children were born.

In 1946 Sis. Carter, with her husband and children, moved to Bakersfield, CA where she resided for 42 years. Recently, upon her prolonged illness, she entered the Sunset Guest Home at Pacoima, CA.

Sis. Carter, always having a tender heart towards God, attended church regularly and was much involved in church activities. Several years after moving to Bakersfield, Sis. Carter became very ill. Through a close friend she heard the teachings of the Church of God. She sent for the pastor, the late Bro. I. C. Chandler, who instructed and counseled her. She readily accepted the Bible teachings and was saved. She was miraculously healed of her illness and lived faithfully and diligently for the Lord.

She leaves to cherish her memory a faithful and devoted husband, Bro. Paul E. Carter of the home; two sons, John D. and Lee A. Carter, both of Bakersfield; two daughters, Bobbie J. Grissom and Norma H. Sherman, both of Bakersfield; two brothers, Joe Lewis, Beggs, OK and Sherman Lewis, Reston, VA; three sisters, Lillie M. Stephens, Bakersfield, CA, Vaicey M. Richards, Omaha, NB and Emma Epperson, Phoenix, AZ; sixteen grandchildren, twenty great-grandchildren, many neices, nephews and other relatives, saints and friends who fondly called her "Granny."

Funeral services were conducted in the saints chapel, Bakersfield, CA by Sis. Beverly Reed, Bro. Robert Mays and others. She was laid to rest in the Hillcrest Memorial Park, Bakersfield, CA.

#### NOTE OF APPRECIATION

The family of Sis. Mabel Carter wishes to thank each and every one for the love and kindness shown to them during the long illness and passing of our loved one.

Without your loving concern, prayers and help from the Lord, our loss would have seemed unbearable. Thanks be to God for the help He has given.

A special thanks to the Bakersfield congregation and friends for your untiring and loving concern shown to "Granny." Your many acts of kindness and thoughtfulness have meant so

much to us. May the Lord richly bless each one for your faithfulness.

Keep remembering us in your prayers that the Lord will continue to sustain and console our hearts.

—The Carter Family

#### Question and Answer Column

by  
Ostis B. Wilson

**Question:** Would you please explain the meaning and import of Jesus' reference to "poor in spirit" in His opening statement of the "Sermon On The Mount" in Matthew 5:3?

**Answer:** This verse says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." We see here that being "poor in spirit" is stated by Jesus Himself as a prime requisite of entering the kingdom of heaven and should therefore be considered worthy of close attention and study.

I will begin the discussion by injecting two other Scriptures into it which may help to clarify its meaning. Isaiah 61:1 in describing the mission and ministry of Christ says this: "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; . . ." The word "meek" here is the key word. Then in the fourth chapter of Luke, verses 16-21, tell that Jesus came to Nazareth and went into the synagogue and there was handed Him the book of Esaias to read and he read this very prophecy of Isaiah 61:1. He read in verse 18, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; . . ." The word "poor" is the key word here. We see that the same word that is translated "meek" in Isaiah 61:1 is translated "poor" in Luke 4:18, and makes it clear that "poor in spirit" is related to meekness and humility. Jesus could have said, "Blessed are the humble for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" and it would have meant the same thing.

So let us study humility a little because without it one can never enter the kingdom of heaven. The proud in heart can never be saved until they renounce pride and become humble enough to repent and confess their need of God and help from Him. Poor is defined as having little or no resources. That is the condition we must reach before we can approach unto God; poor, bankrupt, no goodness of our own to plead. Some of the words in an old hymn say, "Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to thy cross I cling." That is the way we must come to God if we are to receive mercy and grace from

God. God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble. (James 4:6). We cannot use any good things we have done as bargaining points with God when we want Him to save us or want any other favor from Him. Actually God Himself hath said in Isaiah 64:6 that all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags. That surely is not much of a bargaining commodity, so let none of us try to use it in seeking God for salvation or any other favor from God. In Isaiah 54:17 we read, "... their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord." That is the only righteousness God will recognize—just that which He has wrought in us. So in order to enter the Kingdom of God we must empty ourselves of all our self-righteousness and just throw ourselves entirely on the mercies of God and trust Him to cleanse us from all our righteousness and fill us with His own righteousness.

In Luke 18:9-14, Jesus gave us some very clear teaching on this point. He told of two men who went up to the temple to pray—a Pharisee and a publican. The Pharisee's prayer was full of commendatory remarks about himself and what he had done. All the things he said were good commendable things. All true saints observe those things in their lives, too. There was nothing wrong with the things he did. They were right. But using them as bargaining material with God and commending himself to God on that grounds was not acceptable. On the other hand, the publican standing afar off and feeling so spiritually bankrupt and poverty-stricken, and having absolutely nothing to commend him to the Lord, smote upon his breast in the anguish of his soul and said, "God, be merciful to me a sinner." This prayer has come to be recognized the world around, even today, as "The Sinner's Prayer." God accepted that prayer and rejected the Pharisee's prayer even though he said many good things about himself. Jesus said the publican went up to his house justified rather than the Pharisee. Pharisaical religion (self-righteousness; a formal, external religion and worship) is the plague and curse of modern religion. They are missing the Kingdom of God on account of it just as the Pharisee in Luke 18:9-14 did. It is still true that the humble people possess the Kingdom of God.

In John 15:5 Jesus said, "Without me ye can do nothing." Oh, let us ever be mindful of this and never boast ourselves or take credit to ourselves even inwardly, where nobody can know, for anything that God has wrought in or through us, but always acknowledge God and give Him all the credit and glory for everything that we may continue to abide in and possess the Kingdom of God.

Again Jesus said in Luke 12:25, 26 that we

could not, by taking thought, (worrying about it) add one cubit to our stature or turn one hair white or black. He then concluded His thought by saying that if we could not do the things that are least, why worry about the rest. Ah, folks, we will all do well to recognize and confess our insufficiencies and inabilities within ourselves and throw ourselves totally into the hands of God for Holy Ghost enablement for Him to work in us of His own good pleasure. Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:13. So please, let us not throw up our hands and quit because of a consciousness of our total insufficiencies, but let us throw ourselves totally on God and trust in Him to endow us with His all-sufficient power and strength to enable us to do everything He wants us to do.

We can only be worthy of God's divine blessings and favors in our lives, and of salvation itself, so long as we keep our faith in the merits of the shed blood of the Son of God and the sacrifice He made in our behalf. It is only through His sacrifice and our faith in it that we have any access to God at all. Let us never forget this for one moment. Let us never think that God owes us anything at all for any sacrifice we have made or any service we have rendered or any good thing we have done. As soon as we do this we become unworthy of the least of His favors that very moment.

I may have more to say on this subject at a future time as the Lord may lead. To be sure, it is a subject worthy of continuance.

## A Torn Leaf

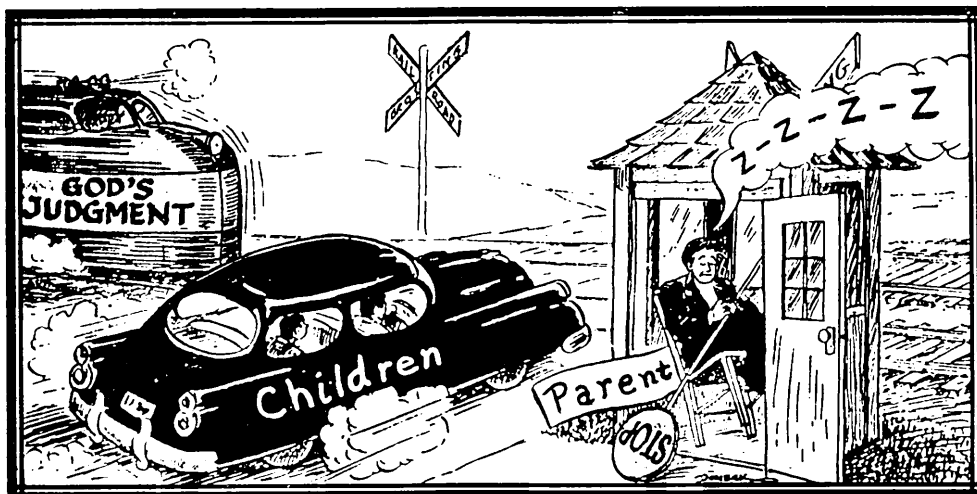


A minister in England asked a dying Christian woman where she found the Saviour. She gave him a piece of paper torn from an American paper containing a small part of one of C. H. Spurgeon's sermons. The scrap had been wrapped around a package that came to her from Australia. The words of Spurgeon were read by her and were the means of leading her to Christ.

Commenting on this incident, a writer says, "Think of it; a sermon preached in England, printed in America, in some way coming to Australia, a part of it used as wrapping paper there, coming back to England, and being the means of converting this woman."

What an encouragement there is in such an incident for those who preach the gospel by means of printer's ink and those who support that printer in his calling! Tracts, papers, booklets, and Spirit-filled printed material are wonderfully used of God for the salvation of souls. —Printed in the April, 1971 *Faith and Victory*

## HOME LIFE



### Some Neglectful Parents

We live in an age when there is a great deal of zeal in the cause of education. But all education is miserably defective where the knowledge of God's Word is left out. Those who have early in youth been well instructed in the Word of God will be fortified against being carried away with the many errors of the age. Parents, do not neglect to sow the seeds of divine truth early in the minds of your children. You have them around you now, but the time is not far distant when they will be scattered far from you.

There is no time to lose. Do not let them go forth with minds as uninstructed in Bible truths as the heathen. Do not let them go forth to grapple with the stern realities of life without the light of the heavenly lamp. You may be proud of your children's education; you may have spared no cost upon it. But without a knowledge of the Bible, what is to become of their poor souls? God says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Some object to this view of the case by pointing to some very good people who have had very wicked children. The Word does not say that every good man's child shall be saved, for every good man is not a good child-trainer. Some good people are really training their children for perdition, although they do not know it and would be dreadfully distressed at the thought. Eli was a good man, and yet he trained his family for destruction. His sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not. We have an example of the same thing in David's household. He spoiled his children by indulgence, and

thereby brought trouble not only upon himself but upon his whole kingdom. Just as our gardens if left alone will be sure to bring forth weeds, so our children if left to the guidance of their own nature are sure to grow up rebels against God. Children who have early been taught to submit their own wills to the will of the parents are far more likely to submit their wills to God. It is a rare thing for a spoiled, self-indulged child ever to be converted in adulthood.

Parents may be good people, they may offer many prayers for the children, they may shed many tears for them, but the child whose will is not taught to bend to authority grows up strong in its rebellion, treating the commands of Jesus as it treated those of its parents, saying, "I will not have this man to reign over me."

The parents of such a child have, without intending it, been his worst enemies by their foolish indulgence. Oh, how sad to see parents laying down, to be trampled in the dust, the authority that God has given them to guide their children aright in this world and to heaven in the end!

—William Strong

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### Listen Mothers, Guard And Guide

Listen mothers, "Guard and guide,"

Little feet can go astray:

Danger in their path may hide,

That increases day by day.

Take the time to talk and teach,

Little thoughts may long remain

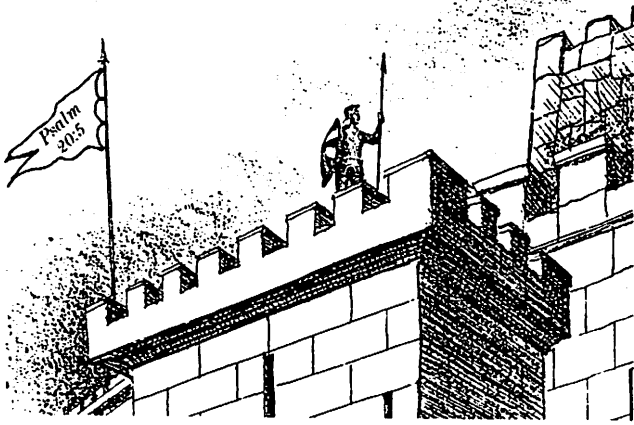
In the hearts they clearly reach,

Many evils to restrain.

Mother's confidences prove  
 Oft the turning point of life,  
 For the heart they gently move  
 When with evil there is strife.  
 In old age they treasures seem,  
 Having served as blessings rare,  
 Ling'ring as a lovely dream,  
 Making life exceeding fair.  
 —Jennie C. Ratty

## The Watchman On The Wall

By Wayne Murphey



### Part 7

Redeemed turned homeward with gladness and relief in his heart and yet he felt a dread of what would surely transpire. He knew that he had reached the point where he must defeat Pride or remain his slave, perhaps forever.

Conscience met him at the door and he related the evening's happenings. She was greatly relieved at the course that he had taken, and gave him much encouragement for the task that lay ahead. "What are you going to do with Pride after you kill him?" she asked.

Redeemed's eyes lit up as he declared with relish, "I will invite all my friends over and describe my great victory. They will probably ask me to be a captain in the army because of my experience. Above all, I will exhibit to them the sword, humility, and let them know that no one else possesses one like it."

Conscience shook her head sadly and said, "I can see now that Pride has influenced you greatly."

"What?" questioned Redeemed. Then he was silent as a knowing look came into his eyes. "You are right," he said in a small voice. "When Pride is dead I will quietly bury his body and the only way anyone will know that he is dead is by observing my life."

It was late by this time and Redeemed hurried to prepare for Pride's visit. Not wanting to

be caught unaware or sleeping, he did not retire to his bed but remained fully clothed and alert by the back fence.

Toward midnight he heard a rustling outside the enclosure and sensed that someone was stealthily approaching. "How much trouble I would have avoided if I had been this alert and watchful the first night that Pride paid a visit," Redeemed thought.

Sure enough, Pride was scaling the fence. He was easily identifiable to Redeemed since his talk with the Commander. Pride walked purposefully to the bedroom window and peered in. Redeemed drew near and declared, "Here I am, Pride."

Pride whirled about in surprise. "So you know my name," he said. Then his eyes fell upon the sword that Redeemed held tightly in his grasp. "I see you have been to the Commander. No one else could have given you that sword but Him." It seemed that the mere mention of the Commander brought fear into Pride's eyes.

"You are right," replied Redeemed, "and I have decided that this will be the end of you."

"Now just a minute," quivered Pride, "let's not be so hasty about this. Just step aside and I will go back over the fence and leave you alone."

"No," Redeemed answered, "I am going to conquer you tonight."

When Redeemed spoke these words Pride seemed to fairly swell with passion. "Alright," he said, "I'll see if you mean what you say." With that, Pride pulled a sword from beneath his cloak. Its appearance struck terror to Redeemed's heart as Pride lunged suddenly toward him.

Pride seemed vicious and tireless in his attack. Redeemed was sorely tried, yet determination held him in the fight. Their struggles brought them up against a wall of the city that ran nearby and which Redeemed had often heard the Commander refer to as the Wall of Salvation. Tired and bleeding, Redeemed leaned against it for support. Pride sensing Redeemed's great fatigue, and his own opportunity, gathered his strength and made a dash at Redeemed, intending to run him through with his sword. Just as the blade neared his breast, Redeemed groaned and in utter desperation prostrated himself on the ground. Although this was a humble act it was the means by which victory over Pride became a reality to him. Pride's sword struck the wall forcefully where Redeemed's heart would have been if he had remained on his feet. A surprised expression appeared on Pride's face when he realized he could



not remove it, so deeply was it embedded in the wall.

Redeemed lifted his eyes when he heard a frustrated bellow from Pride. Realizing what had happened, his courage revived and he leaped to his feet and dealt Pride a death blow, declaring of a truth, "My Salvation is of the Lord."

Weary and greatly humbled, Redeemed disposed of Pride as he had promised Conscience. Making his way through the woods toward the house, he found Conscience waiting for him at the door. He fell into her arms with the realization that their life together would be much sweeter since he had made his peace with the Commander and destroyed Pride. With a genuine gratefulness for his deliverance, Redeemed purposed to guard more carefully his own heart and commit the citizens of the city completely into the care of the Commander.

The End

## What Some Men Have Said About Nature

"Nature is but a name for an effect whose cause is God." —William Cowper

"There is a signature of wisdom and power impressed on the works of God, which evidently distinguishes them from the feeble imitations of men . . . Not only the splendor of the sun, but the glimmering light of the glowworm, proclaims His glory." —John Newton

"Nature is the time-vesture of God that reveals Him to the wise, and hides Him from the foolish." —Thomas Carlyle

"What profusion is there in His work! When trees blossom there is not a single breastpin, but a whole bosom full of gems; and of leaves they have so many suits that they can throw them away to the winds all summer long. What unnumbered cathedrals has He reared in the forest shades, vast and grand, full of curious carvings, and haunted evermore by tremulous music; and in the heavens above, how do stars seem to have flown out of His hand faster than sparks out of a mighty forge!" —H. W. Beecher

"Surely there is something in the unruffled calm of nature that overawes our little anxieties and doubts: the sight of the deep-blue sky, and the clustering stars above, seem to impart a quiet to the mind." —Jonathan Edwards

"Nature imitates herself. A grain thrown into good ground brings forth fruit; a principle thrown into a good mind brings forth fruit. Everything is created and conducted by the same Master — the root, the branch, the fruits — the principles and consequences."

—Blaise Pascal



Excerpts Taken From

February, 1964 *Faith and Victory*

"Bro. Etuk [from Nigeria] writes that their present needs are: . . . the continuing request for one or more missionaries to come from the church here in the States to teach them the Bible doctrines more perfectly.

"Who will enter this open door with the gospel in obedience to the risen Christ's command to evangelize the world? Who will say, 'Here am I; send me?' Isaiah was not able to respond in these words until a live coal from off the altar had touched his lips. Christ's spirit is a missionary spirit, and Divine love for souls will impel us to our duty. Surely the Lord is talking to one or more. Who will hear the voice of God and obey—not by the tide of emotions, but by the definite leadings of the Lord? May the Church at large continue in prayer and consecration until these open doors are entered and a permanent work for God is established in Africa."

—Lawrence Pruitt

"I was reading the testimonies in the January issue of the *Faith and Victory* last night about midnight, especially the one from Pennsylvania by Jerome Park. [An excerpt of Jerome Park's testimony is in the January, 1989 "Window To The Past."] Oh, how it thrilled my soul! It brought back memories of my own home before Mart and I got saved. The Lord has done so much for us and delivered us from so much. There are not words to express the feeling I have down in my heart this morning. I thought when we got saved that we were the happiest of all people, but I've found so many more who feel the same way."

—Verna Mae Samons